

Belle Haven Marina is located on the west bank of the Potomac River on National Park Service property. The facilities are primarily used for wet-slip storage, some dry-dock storage, and running the Mariner Sailing School - no vessel maintenance, repair, or fueling is done on-site. The permanent marina staff is comprised of four employees, and summer staff is hired to help with the sailing school.

The Belle Haven Marina was certified as a Virginia Clean Marina on June 13, 2003. Since pledging to work toward becoming a Clean Marina, Belle Haven Marina has made great strides in creating and implementing Best-Management Practices (BMPs) for many of its marina procedures. Procedural BMP's have been developed for approaching polluters, waste containment, and emergency response. Waste containment has been greatly improved by signage which clearly informs patrons regarding the marina's waste management policies and activities. New signs now inform boaters of where to dispose of liquid wastes, such as antifreeze or used oil. In addition, the marina shares their emergency response plans with both the Fire Department and the National Park Service, and the permanent staff conducts multiple training exercises including oil containment and emergency response to seasonal storm activity.



Emphasis on Boater Education

In addition to providing passive signage and information, the marina staff has taken an active approach to educating boaters by compiling and distributing important environmental information to distribute to slip-holders. As part of this effort, they have developed a newsletter to further inform patrons of the effects of sewage, oil/antifreeze disposal, and safe boating to protect fragile habitat. Environmentally-responsible boating behavior is encouraged among patrons by recognizing the "Environmental Boater of the Year" in their newsletter. As a result, the marina staff has noticed a significant improvement in boater practices, including use of the sewage pump-out and recycling opportunities at the marina.

Other environmentally-friendly techniques used by the Belle Haven Marina are the following:

- A designated boat washing area where run-off is filtered by grass buffer and filter cloth.
- The boat pumpout system is accessible and well-maintained and provided free of charge to slip-holders and visitors.
- Trash cans are covered and refuse is disposed of regularly
- BMPs are incorporated into slip-holder contracts (i.e. no discharge zone, location of oil spill kits)
- Boaters are requested to participate in at least three Marsh Clean Up Days per year
- Fluorescent bulbs are used to reduce energy consumption
- Recycling of cardboard, cans and bottles every week
- Fish cleaning is prohibited on the premises



Belle Haven Marina has made considerable strides in implementing these pollution prevention techniques and BMP's in order to minimize its environmental impacts. Through agreement with the Virginia Environmental Excellence Program (VEEP), Belle Haven Marina has also been recognized as an "Environmental Enterprise" or E2 facility. VEEP is the Virginia DEQ's program to encourage the development of Environmental Management Systems and pollution prevention as tools for achieving long-term improvements in environmental performance. As such, it is hoped that Belle Haven Marina will not only maintain its status as a Clean Marina, but will continuously improve upon its current activities. For more information on VEEP, see <http://www.deq.state.va.us/veep>.



For more information on Belle Haven Marina, contact George Stevens at 703-768-0018, email at George.Stevens@wdn.com, or check out their website at www.saildc.com.



The Virginia Clean Marina Program is a voluntary partnership to reduce nonpoint source pollution to Virginia's Coastal waters by helping marinas and boaters become more environmentally responsible. <http://www.deq.state.va.us/vacleanmarina>. For more information, please contact Harrison Bresee by email at hpbiii@vims.edu or by phone (804) 684-7768.

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